(d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taked by Government in this regard for smooth functioning of these units?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Though closure of a small scale industry (SSI) is dependent on the decision of the SSI concerned, some of the major factors responsible for closure of SSIs are fall in demand for specific products, change in technology, inadequacy of working capital, shortage of raw materials, marketing problems, lack of competitiveness, management inadequacies, etc.

(b) The date on the number of labourers rendered jobless due to closure of SSIs are not maintained centrally. However, workers and technicians rendered jobless due to closure of SSI units can avail of the self-employment opportunities under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana and Rural Employment Generation Programme being implemented by the Central Government throughout the country. .

(c) and (d) The promotion and development of SSI is primarily the responsibility of State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. In order to solve the problems faced by SSI sector, relating to availability of credit, technology upgradation, infrastructure and marketing facilities, the Central Government also implements a number of schemes/programmes to supplement these efforts. .

Disaster Management support system

2566. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Space has evolved a space based disaster management support system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this system had been put to use during the recent natural disasters in the country; and

(d) if so, the extent of success achieved as a result of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The

Space based disaster management support system being implemented by Department of Space, jointly with Ministry of Home Affairs, comprises of the following elements:

— Creation of digital database, for disaster-prone areas, towards facilitating hazard zonation and damage assessment; monitoring of major natural disasters using satellite and aerial data, and development of related techniques and tools.

— Strengthening the communications backbone for timely dissemination of information and emergency support.

— Setting up of a secure satellite based communication network linking the National Control Room at Ministry of Home Affairs with State Control Rooms and other concerned organizations.

— Establishment of a Decision Support Centre at National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) of Department of Space, at Hyderabad, towards facilitating the disaster management operations by Ministry of Home Affairs.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The system had been put to use during the recent floods, tsunami, agricultural drought, earthquake, landslides and forest fires.

Major flood events that occurred during 2005 were monitored, mapped, and the information was furnished to the Ministry of Home affairs, Central Water Commission, and Relief Commissioner of the concerned States. The flood inundation information provided in near real time has been found to be useful for organizing relief operations and assessment of the damages.

The artificial lake formed on the Pareechu River in the Tibetan region during July-August 2004, with threats of flash floods downstream in Himachal Pradesh, was monitored regularly till June 2005 and the information was provided to Ministry of Home Affairs for alert and necessary action.

The post-tsunami relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts were supported by way of providing satellite phones for emergency

communication, enabling telemedicine facilities and videoconferencing for rescue of the displaced people, damage assessment and development of integrated cadastral level information in selected areas.

The damage assessment due to the recent earthquake in Jammu & Kashmir in October 2005 was carried out, and information was sent to Ministry of Home Affairs for relief and rehabilitation activities.

During the 2005 Kharif season, mild agricultural drought was observed in parts of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The agricultural drought information was sent to Ministry of Agriculture and the concerned State Agriculture Departments towards planning relief and contingency measures. The drought information is being used regularly by Ministry of Agriculture and State Departments of Agriculture to pursue drought management activities.

Forest fire information derived from satellite data, on regular basis, is disseminated through the web site of NRSA of Department of Space.

Time Overrun of Projects

t2567. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: SHRI
RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 645 projects under public sector are still under construction;

(b) if not, the number of such projects;

(c) whether it is also a fact that construction work of 258 projects out of the said projects is facing time overrun of period from one month to 21 years;

(d) if not, minimum and maximum period of time overrun of the said projects; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.